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CONTACT

Pinellas County Intergroup
8340 Ulmerton Road Suite 220
Largo, FL 33771

727.530.0415 PH
centraloffice@aapinellas.org

Monday - Friday
10am - 6pm

aapinellas.org

Plain & Straight Editor: Jen B. Email: plainandstraight@aapinellas.org
THE 49'ERS GROUP - WCA
Southland Plaza
9739-9741 66th Street North
Pinellas Park 33782
Added OD Sundays
2:00 pm Elders Mtg.

THE THIRD EDITION - WCA
St. Bede's Episcopal Church
2500 16th St North
St. Petersburg 33704
Saturdays CBB 8:00 pm

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING
MEDITATION MEETING
The New Rebos Club
CM 10:30am No Longer Meets

BAIGIS
Group Number: 00010-37-06
Pasadena Community Church
227 70th St S
St. Petersburg 33707
Meeting & Place No Longer Exists

EMOTIONAL SOBRIETY
La Cita Executive Center
8424 4th St N,
Suite Q
St. Petersburg 33702
Meeting & Place No Longer Exists

THE STRAYS - WCA
The New Rebos Club
5639 54th Ave North
Kenneth City 33709
Removed Meeting At This Place

NEW MEETINGS

THE STRAYS
The New Rebos Club
5639 54th Ave North
Kenneth City 33709
Removed Meeting At This Place

CHANGED MEETINGS

OAKHURST GROUP
St. Anne of Grace Episcopal Church
6650 113th Street North
Seminole 33772
Alanon Only No Longer Meets *

TO THE MAX
First Presbyterian Church
701 Beach Dr., NE
St. Petersburg 33701
9-2 Time Change Only To:
7pm Sundays CD

OLDSMAR GROUP - WCA
Community United Methodist Church
207 Buckingham Avenue E.
Oldsmar 34677
Thursdays OBBW 6:45 pm – No Sitter

NEW LIFE
The Life Center
734 62nd Avenue North
St. Petersburg 33702
Yellow 1-Story Bldg.
CBB Joe And Charlie

OLD SMAR GROUP - WCA
Community United Methodist Church
207 Buckingham Avenue E.
Oldsmar 34677
Thursdays OBBW 6:45 pm – No Sitter

NEW LIFE
The Life Center
734 62nd Avenue North
St. Petersburg 33702
Yellow 1-Story Bldg.
CBB Joe And Charlie

DELETED MEETINGS

OAKHURST GROUP
St. Anne of Grace Episcopal Church
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Other significant events which occurred in September, but for which we do not have a specific date:

1930 – Bill wrote 4th (last) promise in family Bible to quit drinking
1939 – Group started by Earl T. in Chicago.
1946 – First A.A. group in Mexico.
1948 – Bob writes article for Grapevine on AA, “Fundamentals In Retrospect”.
1949 – First issue of A.A. Grapevine published in “pocketbook” size.

Sept 11, 2001 – 30 Vesey St, New York. Location of AA’s first office is destroyed during the World Trade Center attack.

Spiritual Awakening
at Koinonia

Join us for Fellowship and Open Discussion
Followed by a Brief Meditation in the Silence

New Time Starting
Oct. 5, 2018
7:30 p.m.

Every Friday for over 45 years
Christ Presbyterian Church
3115 Dryer Avenue • Largo
8/4/18 Power Greater Than Ourselves
Mondays @7pm Northbay Community Church
across from Hospital @ 3170 McMullen Booth Rd., Clearwater
Doug "SD 8/12/15. The only thing that stands in
the way of my sobriety is me. You cannot
hope for peace in the future; you must look
for it & find it now-find peace in the present.
Meditation is one of the big things about our
group; it's a great way to bring it down a few
moments & connect with our Higher Powers."
Rob "I've always been in courts & jail & it's all
about the evidence; when Rob was 4 & Ash-
ley was 3, I was facing prison & they were
adopted; I did 10 yrs, got out, violated, &
while serving time, I met 'Rob,' the son that got
put into adoption; I call that evidence of
God."
8/11/18 Serenity Seekers @ 455 Scotland /
Highland in Dunedin @7pm Tues & 7pm Sat;
6:30pm Fridays
Todd "SD 7/20/01. I got a sponsor & service
commitments @ prisons & he showed me the
truth & how my entire life was, showing up 5
minutes late & think nothing of any body's
time but yours; selfish & self-seeking. Resent-
ments cuz I can't tolerate the way they act;
my part? you are the only one that creates
the mole hill that creates the mountain; I
moved here a year ago & love Pinellas Coun-
ty meetings!"
Jeanne "SD 3/24/07. Alcohol was like a bad
relationship; it made me feel pretty, fun &
romantic & then once in a while would beat
me up; console me when I felt bad about the
day before; alcohol would control where I go
& every once in a while I would run into him at
the grocery store & tries to seduce me;
Perfectionism - learning to forgive myself
made me more tolerant & able to forgive oth-
ers & when everything is out of control, my
greatest asset is recovery."
8/18/18 Attitude Adjustment Mondays -
Saturdays @7am 1812 Highland Ave,
Clearwater-Round table (everyone gets a
chance to share)
Phil "SD 10/8/13. The book says the disease
centers in the mind; self-centered fear; I'm not
good enough & approval; my favorite piece
of literature is Step 4 of the 12 & 12 book."
Don "When I read the book, it told my story &
it works & I'm one of you; Spoiler Alert: I stop
drinking; God comes into my life & I'm having
the time of my life!"
8/25/18 T.G.I.S. Thank God I'm Sober @7pm
Fridays in Seminole (Women's Beginner Mtg)
6650 113th St N. St. Anne of Grace Episcopal
Church, Seminole
Erica "SD 5/15/14. It says God will help me
solve my problems; Not maybe."
Katherine "SD 5/10/16. God was there for me,
but I had to be there for God, like please
change me."
Sarah "SD 6/3/84. I never took a white chip,
but I came in w/a chip on my shoulder; New-
comers have to have faith that it's all going
the way it's supposed to."
-Your Grateful Plain & Straight Reporter, Karen
ROCKSOBERFEST
LAST CALL GROUP PRESENTS THE 12TH ANNUAL FOOD FUN FELLOWSHIP PICNIC
OCTOBER 21, 2018
SUNDAY SHelter 12
LAKE SEMINOLE PARK

Blind Pass
17th Anniversary Picnic
Sunday September 30, 2018
COME CELEBRATE WITH US!
9am-4pm
Meeting @ 1pm
Ft. DeSoto Park
Pavilion #2
$5/ Per Car Entry Fee

Lake-Sumter Central Office sponsoring
The Big Book Comes Alive
presented by Chad and Julie P.
Austin, TX
Join us for an in-depth guided study of the Big Book
~ Saturday, October 20th ~ 9am - 6pm ~
$10.00 ~ Limited seated!
Doors open @ 8:30 - Lunch is included from Sonny’s BBQ
New Life Presbyterian Church
201 E. Lavista Street, (201 La Villa) Fruitland Park, FL 34731
Please bring your Big Book

$10.00 Registration Form (no later than October 1st, 2018)
NAME: _________________________
PHONE: _________________________ EMAIL: _________________________
Make checks payable: Lake-Sumter Central Office
Mail or drop off registration form with check to: Lake-Sumter Central Office,
2113 Cirrus Blvd, Suite-AA, Leesburg, FL 34748
Any questions please call Central Office @ 352-360-0960 / www.alsalakesumter.com

NEW BEGINNINGS WOMEN’S GROUP
CELEBRATING OUR 6TH ANNIVERSARY
WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 19, 2018
10:30 am
SPEAKER MEETING FOLLOWED BY POTLUCK
Bring a sweet and come to:
CHURCH OF THE ISLES
200 24TH AVE. NORTH
INDIAN ROCKS BEACH
Food! Fun! Fellowship!
Marty Mann was considered the first female member of AA and wrote “Women Suffer Too.”

Born into an upper middle class family in Chicago, Marty Mann attended private schools, traveled extensively, and was a debutante. She married into a wealthy New Orleans family. Her new husband was her equal in heavy drinking. The marriage was short, but, its demise did not slow her alcohol abuse. It increased steadily over the next few years. Her social and family connections made it easy for her to launch a career in public relations. Mann's "social" drinking, however, grew to the point where it endangered not only her business but her life. This includes two suicide attempts. In 1939, her psychiatrist, Dr. Harry Tiebout, gave her a manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous, and persuaded her to attend her first AA meeting (at the time there were only two AA groups in the entire United States).

She said, “I went trembling into a house in Brooklyn filled with strangers and I found I had come home at last – to my own kind.”

Despite several relapses during her first year and a half, Mann succeeded in becoming sober by 1940, and apart from a brief tumble nearly twenty years later, she remained sober for the rest of her life.

In 1945, Mann began working actively to eliminate the stigma and ignorance regarding alcoholism, particularly for women, and to encourage the "disease model" which viewed it as a medical/psychological problem rather than a moral failing. She helped start the Yale School of Alcohol Studies (now at Rutgers) and organized the National Committee for Education on Alcoholism (NCEA) which later became the National Council on Alcoholism (today the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence or NCADD). She was also in great demand as a public speaker, her personal experience making her particularly effective, and she was instrumental in educating the public that alcoholism is a serious but treatable disease.

Mann's willingness to admit her alcoholism and her successful experience with AA encouraged others to seek help, and Mann contributed the chapter "Women Suffer Too" to the 2nd and 3rd editions of The Big Book of AA.

-Leslie B., Archives Committee
SEPTEMBER anniversaries. Thank you

Submissions must be received by the first Friday of each month to make it into the next Issue. Deadline for OCTOBER’s issue is: Friday, October 5th, 2018 - that is for the SEPTEMBER anniversaries. Thank you - Jessica S., Anniversary Editor
“YOUNG AND FULL OF FEAR”
When I came in to AA at 22 years-old, I was depressed, socially anxious, and terrified. I was just beginning to understand how powerless I was over alcohol and the consequences it had in my life. Too scared to go to Young People’s meetings with peers, I went to meetings where the crowd was much older than me.

One of the first suggestions I received was to go up to women after the meeting and ask them for their phone numbers. That was the last thing I ever wanted to do, but I also didn’t want to drink anymore and was open to trying something different. After the prayer at the end of a meeting, people would cluster together in groups to talk, and I didn’t know how to approach them. I would find a woman who shared something I liked, but she was already engaged in speaking to another person. I would stand near her, terrified, waiting for her to finish her conversation and notice me. Seconds felt like hours. When she turned to me to speak, I’d ask her for her phone number, write it down, and then beeline for the door. I hated it...but it didn’t kill me, and I was following the directions someone gave me. The act of facing my fears became the cornerstone on which my foundation in AA was built. I didn’t always have to enjoy or feel good about things. I learned that my feelings wouldn’t kill me.

Hidden Truth
within all there is a search for the Hidden Truth, you have always heard
and felt the fire
May your seeking be your key to
Enlightenment and Knowledge
For what you may not see or hear Today,
you will surely witness tomorrow.
—Michael Adams

I also got the well-known advice of, “There are two times when you ought to go to meetings: 1) When you want to go, and 2) when you don’t want to go.” The older crowd looked out for me. I got a home group, a service commitment, a sponsor. I began working the steps. I became more comfortable in AA and the anxiety lessened. But the older crowd were at different life stages than I was at the time and I needed to be around people in my age group. I eventually began to attend Young People’s meetings. Now my social anxiety, fear, and awkwardness came back full throttle. What will everyone think of me? How do I act? What do I say to people? But I knew I couldn’t let fear dictate my life, and that my own self-centeredness was the cause of my fear. I prayed to my Higher Power for strength and did the foot work by continuing to show up to meetings with young people. I even went out to fellowship with them afterward.

Over time, I learned to navigate meetings better. I became less scared, embraced the awkward moments and became confident in my ability to socialize. I am now able to join in fun activities and some great friendships have developed.

Today, when I’m at a meeting, I keep an eye out for the person who is by herself, who leaves too quickly or who just seems scared and uncomfortable. I let her know we’ve all been nervous in the beginning, and then introduce her to other friendly AAs. My hope is that over time she will find a Fellowship as rich as I have.

-Jessi S., St. Petersburg, FL
(Published in September 2018 Grapevine, p. 18-19)
GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS
August 2018

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CORRECTIONS
WOULD LIKE TO THANK:
Jackie H., Virginia, & the Seminole Group
FOR DONATING LITERATURE!

What is the Birthday Plan? Members customarily contribute $1, $2 or even $5 a year for each year of sobriety — others may give a penny or a nickel a day for each day of their sobriety. These contributions support the G.S.O.'s services to members in the US and Canada, and help to carry the A.A. message worldwide. For more details, visit: https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/the-birthday-plan.

CONTACT Central Office at 727-530-0415 or stop in to donate for your anniversary!

aapinellas.org